



**WCFC Meeting
February 9, 2012
Natural Resources Building
Olympia, Washington**

Members Attending: Micki McNaughton, Sarah Foster, Joe Scorcio, Barbara Hollenbeck, Sandy Salisbury, Brian Cramer, Jim Flott, Sheila Gray, David Nelson, Terry Flatley, Jim Freed, Ara Erickson

Absent: Kathy Wolf

Guests: Jeff Beckwith, Linden Mead, Mark Gray, State Forester Aaron Everett, Commissioner Peter Goldmark

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Chair Joe Scorcio. Council members introduced themselves to our new members and guests.

Joe Shramek, Resource Protection Division (RPD) Manager, welcomed the Council to the Natural Resources Building. He thanked the members for their time and service to the Council. WCFC plays an important role in shaping the UCF program. Joe gave an overview of what the RPD does. DNR's mission is: *In partnership with citizens and governments, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources provides innovative leadership and expertise to ensure environmental protection, public safety, perpetual funding for schools and communities, and a rich quality of life.* It's a wide ranging mission and works along a wide range of topics, programs and statewide. Fire response is the most visible program in the Division, but all are important to completing our mission.

2011 RPD Highlights: Forest Health program provides advice and funding for on the ground projects in our state and private forests. Commissioner Goldmark has focused on Forest Health (FH) and has recently appointed a technical advisory committee (authorized in 2007 FH law) to provide advice on the major forest health issues and where efforts should be focused. Firewise Communities USA was another success in 2011. Washington has 89 recognized communities (second highest in the US, most in the West!). Sarah is the Firewise Communities USA program manager, in addition to her urban forestry work. Most of our citizens are urban or community based, and it makes good sense for this program to be housed in the UCF program. Cross programmatic work makes a difference with absentee homeowners as well. Fire Protection: DNR protects over 12 million acres from fire. Last year was below average in acres and numbers of fires. That really helped save DNR's budget. UCF highlights: partnerships with other agencies and states showed good government in action. Linden is the consulting arborist for DES (formerly GA). She was very active in the storm response a few weeks ago. Nearly 3 dozen trees were removed on the Capitol Campus. Department of Ecology partnership – with funding from USDA Forest Service- launched the Puget Sound Corps by using a crew of

1 veterans to remove invasive species and plant trees in our communities. Department of
2 Corrections- work to do forest restoration work was proposed last year. While it wasn't funded,
3 we'll try again to get this great project funded. Other state partnerships – DNR works with
4 Oregon Department of Forestry often, including 2012 Community Tree Management Institute in
5 2012. This year CTMI will be mostly online as developed as part of a grant project. Barbara
6 recognized that USFS folks in Washington DC keep close attention to Washington's programs as
7 one of the Nation's best. Joe Scorcio asked what the Council can do to be most effective. Joe
8 Shramek's response was that advice as to where we should be focusing our efforts is the best use
9 of the Council's time. What's the biggest bang for our buck?

10
11 Sarah gave a brief rundown of the NRB logistics.

12
13 Agenda was approved as presented. The October minutes were reviewed. Sandy moved, Jim
14 seconded the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

15
16 Council Business: Sarah will send updated roster to WCFC members. Elections were held.
17 Sandy Salisbury, Jim Flott and Jim Freed are running for vice-chair. Jim Flott withdrew his
18 name. Joe Scorcio ran for chair unopposed. Votes were cast and counted by Mark Gray. Jim
19 Freed will serve as vice chair in 2012; Sandy moved, Barbara seconded, with one abstention.
20 Motion carried -Joe will continue to serve as Chair. Joe reminded the Council of the schedule
21 for 2012. Meetings will be held May 9th in Ellensburg, August 8th in University Place (or
22 conference call), and October 10th in Mount Vernon/Bellingham/Anacortes. Jim Freed will
23 check with WSU research center in Mount Vernon for room availability.

24
25 USFS Update: Barbara gave an update on national issues. The FY2012 budget started on
26 October 1, 2011; it was recently passed. UCF program funding was down, however there was a
27 little extra put in for strategic tree planting for climate change. More details to come on this tree
28 planting grant program.

29
30 UCF Update: Storm response: Significant damage in the South Puget Sound area. Linden and
31 Nicki went out to survey damage in Olympia/Tumwater. Many of the failures were
32 'predictable', meaning they had a defect that failed do to the weight of snow and ice. Nearly 3
33 dozen trees were removed on the Capitol Campus, including a state champion beech in Sylvester
34 Park. There are 83 Tree Cities (Rockford, Edmonds, North Bend are new), 10 Tree Line (Avista
35 new), 4 Tree Campus (no new). WCFC assistance with Arbor Day events will soon be requested.
36 Linden is coordinating the events; please plan to present at least one award. CTMI kicking off in
37 the next month with our new format; 36 students registered now. Grants were recently selected
38 (thanks to Joe and Sandy for participating on the selection committee). 13 projects were selected
39 and letters have just been sent. We will post on our website in the next week. TreeWorks has
40 been purchased by DNR/DES and will be installed tomorrow. The inventory project will include
41 completing inventories for small communities and the Capitol Campus and selecting a roster of
42 consultants to complete inventories for larger cities. The goal is to streamline the inventory
43 process for communities and gather consistent data.

44
45 Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark: The Council introduced themselves to
46 Commissioner Goldmark and State Forester Aaron Everett. Commissioner Goldmark thanked
47 all of the members for their time and energy spent on the Council. The reason we are here is we
48 understand the fundamental relationship between people and trees. Trees provide amazing
49 benefits to our communities and the work this group does is important to the cause.

1 Commissioner Goldmark feels strongly about the importance of community forestry. The 2010
2 strategic plan expresses the importance to preserve working forest/agricultural lands and forest
3 cover from conversion (goal 3). Under that philosophy, it's important to have trees in our lives.
4 He's struck by his experience in Olympia with all the trees. Having an advocacy group is
5 important for our community forests.

6
7 In the last year, DNR has been working against a difficult tide. Less forestland is being
8 converted due to the economic downturn, but we know it will be changing soon. DNR's
9 legislative agenda included the Community Forest Trust last year. This trust works to keep land
10 from being converted from forestry to development or the community acquired the forest in
11 partnership with the State. It sets up an important partnership for communities to use to protect
12 the forested lands that surround them. Second big achievement in 2011: the launch of Puget
13 Sound Corps. The goal of cleanup and restoration of Puget Sound is critical to Washington.
14 PSC received an UCF grant from the USFS to get boots on the ground and get the Veterans
15 Corps started. It's so important to get veterans working as they return, and it will have
16 significant impacts to the forests surrounding Puget Sound. This project kicked off in November
17 2011; DNR is continuing to seek funding for this and other urban forestry projects.

18
19 Forest Health hazard alert was initiated last year; this allowed Commissioner Goldmark to
20 convene a forest health technical advisory committee to provide advice on where and how to best
21 improve forest health. EPA provided a grant to develop an opportunity to derive additional
22 revenue for forest landowners that deliver clean water to a watershed. This is a pilot project to
23 monetize one of the values of a forested landscape. Carbon was intangible, but water is not. The
24 public understands the value of clean water.

25
26 Commissioner Goldmark talked about the damage on the Capitol Campus. He had damage in his
27 yard too. Big old trees were devastated and had to be removed. He noted that the deciduous
28 trees were more impacted than the conifer trees. Some of the damage seems to be by age class,
29 but it's early to make a well informed plan on how to best respond.

30
31 Commissioner Goldmark then took questions from the Council and again thanked them for their
32 time and commitment to the UCF program.

33
34 State Forester Aaron Everett. He is going to focus on big picture items and share ideas. Federal
35 fiscal year 2012 for urban forestry is fairly steady from 2011; a 2% reduction. Fiscal 13 is the
36 bigger challenge; the failing of the "super committee" means that the spending caps from the
37 August compromise will be around for the next 10 years at least. This impacts the FS and
38 trickles down to the states as well. The Farm Bill needs to be reauthorized in 2012; there was a
39 bit of a push last year to do revisions. His number one item for the Council, when you are taking
40 account of your successes it is essential to invite and alert elected officials to Arbor Day
41 celebrations, tree plantings, other events that are important to Washington. We need champions
42 in tough times. Federal Western competitive grant funding: when Aaron last addressed the
43 Council he talked about competitive grants. This process will be in place in 2012 as well. If the
44 Council has project ideas, especially those that connect the communities to the uplands (water),
45 or new and innovative items, get them to Sarah. The inventory project DNR is undertaking is an
46 example of innovation. DNR wants to be as effective as possible and this is a way to stream line
47 efforts and be innovative.

1 Community Forest Trust: Aaron stated that it's very early in the process for the Community
2 Forest Trust program; he offered to arrange a meeting with the Community Trust group and find
3 a nexus with UCF. Discussion ensued about project ideas, match, and bureaucracy. He will
4 send anything that the community forest trust group to Sarah for distribution to the Council.
5 ECA goals are important but moving very slowly given funding levels. Aaron discussed the
6 watershed market project; it will show market value for water and ways to achieve it through
7 green infrastructure (forests). Water and urban forestry is a big issue. He shared some projects
8 he saw at the State Foresters meeting in Baltimore that went along with the Chesapeake Bay
9 clean-up projects. Information will be shared with the Council as an idea starter. Maybe we can
10 have a webinar with them about the types of projects in urban forestry? Barbara will get
11 information to Sarah about it. EPA is working on new processes about using trees to achieve
12 clean water act goals. Get more details about this.

13
14 Aaron would like to meet with the Council semi-annually. Sarah will follow up to invite him to
15 October meeting. Get ideas to Sarah and she will get them moving.

16 **Council Round Table:**

17 Joe: Community Forest Trust webinar through WSAC. Chambers Creek Properties has been
18 impacted by weather (wind, snow, ice) in the past few months.

19
20
21 Linden: Arbor Day check in – if you are interested in helping with AD events, please let Linden
22 know a.s.a.p. and she will match you with a community. All in attendance pledged help out!

23
24 Jim Flott: PNWISA is hosting the International ISA Conference in Portland in August.
25 Attendance is expected to be around 5,000! Records will be shattered. Chapter outreach efforts
26 will be to reach out to allied professionals to increase education about trees and proper pruning.
27 Jim also thanked the Council for their support to his family during his daughter's recovery. He
28 updated the Council on former member Rich Baker's condition; Rich was diagnosed with a brain
29 tumor. He had surgery which went well, but he had a stroke during his recovery from the
30 surgery. He's doing well in a rehabilitation facility, but will have a long recovery. He hopes to
31 go home in the next few weeks. An account has been set up to support Rich and his family at a
32 bank in Spokane. Contact Jim for details.

33
34 Terry: He was able to make an assessment of many areas during his vacation and viewed storm
35 damage. Much of the damage was in alder, cottonwood, and other deciduous trees. Many failures
36 were caused by defects in trees. Renton is working on completing a Community Forestry
37 Assistance grant; they are doing a tree planting grant to show impacts to climate change. They
38 are looking at tree inventory software and management software to purchase soon.

39
40 Sheila: She's brand new to the Council and looking forward to representing WSAC. Next time
41 there will be more to report.

42
43 Ara: Forterra was approached by Friends of Trees to partner on tree planting. There are a lot of
44 tree related/urban forestry nonprofit organizations in Washington, but no one group has been the
45 lead. Forterra has received funding from the USFS and are working with many partners. There
46 was a discussion about how non-profits can work together.

47
48 Jim Freed: Budget cuts are impacting university programs. Demand for research and education in
49 non-traditional forest setting. Land grant universities are identifying "community of practice

groups” that are targeted for additional education focus – mostly online to eliminate redundant research. More will be shared at the August meeting. Technical colleges with forestry programs: Green River, Grays Harbor CC with Centralia CC, and Olympic. He’s also working with FFA chapters as well.

David: Central Washington is arid, and urban forestry is a challenge...but very important for communities there. Education is the key, a generationally change may make a difference as more and more people get connected to trees. Discussion about how to best work with small communities and the resources available to them.

Brian: Four of Brian’s crews have been working under mutual aid to PSE in response of the storm. It sometimes takes a storm to highlight how good (or bad) tree maintenance really effects trees. His crews sent pictures of many predictable failures (co-dominant stems, bad pruning cuts, etc.). Puget Sound Energy will continue to work with their stakeholders and on tree management. He’s working with Benton Rural Electric Association to become a Tree Line USA.

Sandy: DOT had a lot of tree damage as well (with no funding to fix it). Tree maintenance has been slashed for years and years; hopefully a way can be found to replace damaged trees. Some projects are moving forward that involve tree installation. I-90 phase 2 over the pass is moving forward with lots of tree planting. Cheney/Spokane interchange is moving forward (watering is the problem that needs to be solved.)

Micki: She is a regional education coordinator for the south Puget Sound area for PNW-ISA and looks forward to scheduling a number of workshops. She’s coordinating a number of tree pruning workshops; many were attended by Public Works personnel. She’s working with APWA to get information into their chapter newsletters. She also works with Planning Assn. of Washington and is working to see a joint conference down the road to show the nexus.

Committee Meetings/Discussion: Sarah will send Dave and Brian the checklist for Ellensburg meeting. Sarah will send updated roster and distribution list to members. Sarah will send executive committee the Articles of Association for review of organizational representation. Ara led a discussion of what we will be working on in 2012. Council members were encouraged to share more by email of events, activities, and what is occurring in their organization.

Ara moved to change the title of the Outreach & Recognition Committee (formerly called Outreach & Awards). Jim Freed seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued on how best to outreach for potential award recipients. There is a nomination form that needs to be updated. She proposed gathering a pool of nominations that the committee would use to select recipients prior to each meeting. Ara will update the application for and criteria and send out prior to the May meeting. Discussion continued about the awards program including criteria, pool, award funding/sponsorship, etc.). Tree planting is a good recognition; UCF funds may be used in communities for purchase of the tree. Trees could also be donated. GIS points would be taken of all the trees and mapped. Local arrangements committee could be in charge of organizing committee (including procurement of tree and finding location). Award would also include a letter on council letterhead signed by all Council members. If frames are needed; that would require a sponsorship or donation. Most members decided that frames are not necessary (maybe a nice paper certificate folder). Sarah will send link to Land’s End logo to

1 council. Micki volunteered to be tree requisition point person. David will be the point person to
2 collect nomination forms and keep track of them (staff will receive them and deliver to David).
3 Legislative committee would like to pursue getting an initiative started to stop tree topping. Jim
4 will look into the process.
5
6 May meeting items: reports by committees to start the meeting; legislative committee looks into
7 initiatives; awards committee update. USFS updated on Chesapeake updates. Tree
8 planting/recognition to Ellensburg (maybe their Arbor Day celebration).
9
10 Meeting adjourned at 315.
11